In the Claims:

Please amend Claims 1, 2, 12-13, 16, 18, 19, 21, 23, 32, 35, 37-38, 40, 43, 46, 49, 50, 54-55, 58-59, 60, 62, and 64, and cancel Claim 61, all as shown below. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to prosecute any originally presented or canceled claims in a continuing or future application. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended)   A computer implemented method for ~~permitting the sending of~~ modifying a list of permitted senders used by electronic mail (email) access control devices, said method comprising:

under control of a sender:

accepting a recipient identifier;

providing sender information along with a petition provider identifier to a recipient, the recipient having an access list of permitted senders associated therewith;

under control of the recipient:

providing the sender information to a petition provider identified by the petition provider identifier;

accepting ~~a~~ an access list petition request (petition) from the petition provider, said petition being stored in a computer readable storage medium;

determining whether the petition is acceptable based on at least one of: 1) a sender identity verification method; 2) user input; and 3) third party information; and

modifying said access list of permitted senders of the recipient such that the sender is added to said access list if the petition is determined to be acceptable;

wherein the petition is received and evaluated at a time the sender receives recipient's email address and prior to transmission of email messages between said sender and said recipient; and

wherein the petition is transmitted through a different protocol than said email messages in order to avoid said petition from being filtered.

~~wherein if the petition is acceptable, the sender is permitted to send email to the recipient.~~

2. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 1 wherein:

the sender information ~~can include~~ <u>includes</u> at least one of: 1) a sender identification method; and 2) the recipient identifier.

3. (Original)   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

providing confirmation of the determination to the sender.

4. (Original)   The method of claim 1 wherein:

the step of accepting the recipient identifier is a result of a Web-based interaction between the recipient and the sender.

5. (Original)   The method of claim 1 wherein:

the recipient identifier is an email address.

6. (Original)   The method of claim 1 wherein:

the identity verification method is one of: 1) an email header "From" address; 2) a password; 3) an Internet Protocol (IP) address; and 4) a digital signature.

7. (Original)   The method of claim 1 wherein:

the step of determining whether a petition is acceptable utilizes at least one rule, wherein the at least one rule is evaluated against the petition.

8. (Original)   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

prompting a user for a decision regarding whether or not to accept the petition.

9. (Original)   The method of claim 1 wherein:

the recipient comprises a Web browser.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein:

the sender information is provided to the petition provider via a Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) redirect sent to the Web browser.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein:

the petition is provided to a petition processor via a Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) redirect message sent to the Web browser; and

wherein the petition processor makes said determination.

12. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 9 wherein:

the Web browser ~~can identify~~ identifies the petition based on a Multipurpose Internet Mail Extension (MIME) type.

13. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 9 wherein:

the petition provider identifier and the sender information ~~can be~~ are combined to form a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) that the Web browser ~~can use~~ uses to access the petition provider.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

providing the petition to a petition processor.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein:

the petition processor requires authorization credentials.

16. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 1 wherein:

the sender identity verification method ~~can be~~ is used by an email provider to verify that an email message is from the sender.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:

    the petition provider generates the petition based on one or more rules.

18. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 17 wherein:

    a rule ~~can determine~~ determines at least one of: 1) whether to generate the petition; 2) a format of the petition; 3) an identity of a petition processor; and 4) a recipient email address.

19. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 17 wherein:

    a rule ~~can be~~ is triggered based on the recipient identifier.

20. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

    adding the sender to an email access list if the petition is acceptable; and

    wherein the email access list is used to determine whether or not email from a sender is permitted to reach the recipient.

21. (Currently Amended)   A computer implemented method for ~~permitting the sending of~~ modifying a list of permitted senders used by electronic mail (email) access control devices, said method comprising:

    under control of a sender:

        accepting a recipient identifier;

        generating ~~a~~ an access list petition request (petition) wherein said generation is based on the evaluation of at least one rule that determines the format of the petition based on the recipient identifier, said petition being stored in a computer readable medium;

        providing the petition to a recipient, the recipient having an access list of permitted senders associated therewith;

    under control of the recipient:

        accepting the petition;

determining whether the petition is acceptable based on at least one of: 1) a sender identity verification method; 2) user input; and 3) third party information; and

modifying said access list of permitted senders of the recipient such that the sender is added to said access list if the petition is determined to be acceptable;

wherein the petition is received and evaluated at a time the sender receives recipient's email address and prior to transmission of email messages between said sender and said recipient.

~~wherein if the petition is acceptable, the sender is permitted to send email to the recipient.~~

22. (Original) The method of claim 21, further comprising:

providing the recipient identifier to a petition provider; and

accepting a petition from the petition provider.

23. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 21 wherein:

the sender information ~~can include~~ includes at least one of: 1) a sender identification method; and 2) the recipient identifier.

24. (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein:

the petition provider and the sender are part of the same system.

25. (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein:

the step of accepting the recipient identifier is a result of a Web-based interaction between the recipient and the sender.

26. (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein:

the recipient identifier is an email address.

27. (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein:

the identity verification method is one of: 1) an email header "From" address; 2) a password; 3) an Internet Protocol (IP) address; and 4) a digital signature.

28. (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein:

the step of determining whether a petition is acceptable utilizes at least one rule, wherein the at least one rule is evaluated against the petition.

29. (Original) The method of claim 21, further comprising:

prompting a user for a decision regarding whether or not to accept the petition.

30. (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein:

the recipient comprises a Web browser.

31. (Original) The method of claim 30 wherein:

the petition is provided to a petition processor via a Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) redirect sent to the Web browser; and

wherein the petition processor makes said determination.

32. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 30 wherein:

the Web browser ~~can identify~~ identifies the petition based on a Multipurpose Internet Mail Extension (MIME) type.

33. (Original) The method of claim 21, further comprising:

providing the petition to a petition processor.

34. (Original) The method of claim 33 wherein:

the petition processor requires authorization credentials.

35. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 21 wherein:

the sender identity verification method ~~can be~~ is used by a petition processor to verify that an email message is from the sender.

36. (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein:

the petition provider generates the petition based on one or more rules.

37. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 36 wherein:

a rule ~~can determine~~ determines at least one of: 1) whether to generate the petition; 2) a format of the petition; 3) an identity of a petition processor; 4) a recipient email address.

38. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 36 wherein:

a rule ~~can be~~ is triggered based on the recipient identifier.

39. (Original) The method of claim 21, further comprising:

adding the sender to an email access list if the petition is acceptable; and

wherein the email access list is used to determine whether or not email from a sender is permitted to reach the recipient.

40. (Currently Amended)   A computer implemented method for ~~permitting a sender to provide~~ modifying a list of permitted senders used by electronic mail (email) access control devices ~~to a recipient~~, said method comprising:

providing a recipient email address to the sender;

providing a petition to the recipient, wherein the petition includes a sender identity verification method;

determining whether the petition is acceptable based on authorization credentials and at least one of: 1) the sender identity verification method; 2) user input; and 3) third party information;

modifying an email access list of permitted senders by adding the sender to ~~an~~ said email access list if the petition and the authorization credentials are acceptable; ~~and~~

wherein the petition is received and evaluated at a time the sender receives said recipient email address and prior to transmission of email messages between said sender and said recipient;

wherein the petition is transmitted by using a different protocol than said email messages in order to avoid said petition from being filtered; and

wherein the email access list is used to determine whether or not email from the sender is permitted to reach the recipient.

41. (Original) The method of claim 40, further comprising:

providing confirmation of the determination to the sender.

42. (Original) The method of claim 40 wherein:

the step of providing the recipient email address to the sender is a result of a Web-based interaction between the recipient and the sender.

43. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 40 wherein:

the sender identity verification method ~~can be~~ is used by the recipient to verify that an email message is from the sender.

44. (Original) The method of claim 40 wherein:

the identity verification method is one of: 1) an email header "From" address; 2) a password; 3) an Internet Protocol (IP) address; and 4) a digital signature.

45. (Original) The method of claim 40 wherein:

the petition is provided to a Web browser.

46. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 45 wherein:

the Web browser ~~can identify~~ identifies the petition based on a Multipurpose Internet Mail Extension (MIME) type.

47. (Original) The method of claim 40 wherein:

the step of determining whether a petition is acceptable utilizes at least one rule, wherein the at least one rule is evaluated against the petition.

48. (Original) The method of claim 40, further comprising:

prompting a user for a decision regarding whether or not to accept the petition.

49. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a means for providing a recipient email address to the sender;

a means for providing a petition to the recipient, wherein the petition includes a sender identity verification method;

a means for determining whether the petition is acceptable based on authorization credentials and at least one of: 1) the sender identity verification method; 2) user input; and 3) third party information;

a means for modifying an email access list of permitted senders by adding the sender to ~~an~~ said email access list if the petition and the authorization credentials are acceptable; ~~and~~

wherein the petition is received and evaluated at a time the sender receives said recipient email address and prior to transmission of email messages between said sender and said recipient;

wherein the petition is transmitted by using a different protocol than said email messages in order to avoid said petition from being filtered; and

wherein the email access list is used to determine whether or not email from the sender is permitted to reach the recipient.

50. (Currently Amended) A system for ~~permitting the sending of~~ modifying a list of permitted senders used by electronic mail (email) access control devices, said method comprising:

a sender component operable to accept a recipient identifier and generate sender information, wherein the sender information can be used to generate a petition;

a petition provider component operable to generate a petition based on the sender information and at least one rule, said petition being stored in a computer readable medium; and

wherein the petition is generated at a time the sender component receives said recipient identifier and prior to transmission of email messages between said sender component and a recipient;

wherein the petition is transmitted by using a different protocol than said email messages in order to avoid said petition from being filtered; and

wherein the petition includes a sender identity verification method which can be used to verify the identity of the sender.

51. (Original) The system of claim 50, further comprising:

a web browser operable to accept the sender information from the sender component and provide the sender information to the petition provider component.

52. (Original) The system of claim 50, further comprising:

a petition processor component operable to accept the petition and determine whether the petition is acceptable based on at least one of: 1) the sender identity verification method; 2) user input; and 3) third party information; and

wherein if the petition is acceptable, the sender component is permitted to send email to a recipient associated with the recipient identifier.

53. (Original) The system of claim 52, further comprising:

a web browser operable to accept the petition from the petition provider component and to provide the petition to the petition processor.

54. (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 52 wherein:

the petition processor component can provide provides a confirmation to the sender.

55. (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 52 wherein:

the browser ~~can identify~~ <u>identifies</u> the petition based on a Multipurpose Internet Mail Extension (MIME) type.

56. (Original) The system of claim 50 wherein:

the sender identification verification method is one of: 1) an email header "From" address; 2) a password; 3) an Internet Protocol (IP) address; and 4) a digital signature.

57. (Original) The system of claim 52 wherein:

the petition processor determines whether or not to accept a petition and add the sender to an email access list for a recipient.

58. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 50 wherein:

the at least one rule ~~can determine~~ <u>determines</u> at least one of: 1) whether to generate the petition; 2) a format of the petition; and 3) an identity of a petition processor.

59. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 50 wherein:

the at least one rule ~~can be~~ <u>is</u> triggered based on the recipient identifier.

60. (Currently Amended)   A machine readable medium having instructions stored thereon that when executed by a processor cause a system to:

accept a recipient identifier;

provide a petition to a recipient wherein the recipient corresponds to the recipient identifier and wherein the petition is based on the evaluation of at least one rule<u>, said recipient having an access list of permitted senders associated therewith</u>;

determine whether the petition is acceptable based on at least one of: 1) a sender identity verification method; 2) user input; and 3) third party information; and

modifying said access list of permitted senders of the recipient such that a sender associated with said petition is added to the access list if the petition is determined to be acceptable;

wherein the petition is provided to the recipient at the time of accepting the recipient identifier and prior to transmission of email messages between the sender and the recipient;

wherein the petition is provided by using a different protocol from said email messages; and

wherein if the request is acceptable, the sender is permitted to send email to the recipient.

61. (Canceled)

62. (Currently Amended)   A computer implemented method comprising:

accepting a recipient identifier, wherein the recipient identifier ~~can be~~ is used to identify an electronic mail (email) recipient, said recipient having an access list of permitted senders associated therewith;

generating a petition based on the recipient identifier and at least one petition rule, wherein the at least one petition rule includes at least one of: 1) a sender identification method; and 2) a recipient; and

modifying said access list of permitted senders of the recipient such that a sender associated with said petition is added to the access list if the petition is determined to be acceptable;

wherein the petition is generated at the time of accepting the recipient identifier and prior to transmission of email messages between the sender and the recipient;

wherein the petition is provided by using a different protocol from said email messages; and

wherein the petition ~~can be~~ is used by ~~a~~ an email provider to allow a recipient to receive email from a sender.

63. (Original) The method of claim 62, further comprising:

adding the sender to an email access list for the recipient.

64. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 62, further comprising:

   providing the petition to a petition processor, wherein the petition processor ~~can determine~~ determines if the petition is valid.

65. (Original) The method of claim 62, further comprising:

   determining whether the recipient is licensed to invoke petition generation.